

從五旬節再開始

(一) 導言

- 聖靈是基督徒生命的標記（羅馬書 8:9）。

(二) 聖靈是上帝親自的臨在

- 貫穿整本新舊約聖經的，是一個論到人如何從上帝的同在中失落（創世紀2-3），而最終上帝又如何重新臨在於他們當中（啟示錄 21:1-22:5）的故事。
- 基督教所要講的訊息，不獨是上帝的「存在」（existence），而更加是上帝的「同在」（presence）。

(三) 舊約對上帝同在的盼望

- 出埃及記的主題是一個關於以色列人如何從一個為奴的民族變成一個有神與他們同在的民族。故事的高峰出現於 40:34-38。耶和華的榮光充滿了會幕。會幕從此標誌著上帝的同在。
- 對以色列人來說，是上帝的同在使他們與別國不同（33:15-16）。是上帝的同在界定了他們的身份。
- 到所羅門王時，會幕的意義卻被聖殿所取代（列王紀上 8:10-11；當中所用的字眼與出埃及記 40:34-38 相同）。
- 所以以色列人知道，無論他們遇到的危險有多大，只要來到聖殿中，他們便可以在上帝的臨在中面對一切（列王紀上 8:33-39）。
- 所以當聖殿被毀時，對以色列人來說，這等於他們對信仰的幻滅。
- 然而先知預言，有一天神要從新臨在於他的子民當中（以西結書 37:26-27；瑪拉基書 3:1），並且重建他的聖殿，成為萬國敬拜神的殿（以賽亞書 2:2-3；彌迦書 4:1-2；撒迦利亞書 14:16-19）。
- 可惜，第二個聖殿並沒有使這一切成就（以斯拉記 3:12；哈該書 2:3）。
- 其實，作為一位罪人，我們都分享著以色列人與上帝的疏離（alienation），也分享著他們對上帝再次臨在的盼望。

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- The presence of the Holy Spirit is the identity marker of Christians (Rom 8:9).

The Presence of God

- The Bible tells the grand story of how the presence of God was removed from man after his fall (Gen 2-3), and subsequently renewed when God returns to His creation (Rev 21:1-22:5).
- The Christian gospel is not only about the “*existence of God*,” but more important, the “*presence of God*.”

The Old Testament Hope of God's Renewed Presence

- Exodus is a story about the transformation of Israel from a race of slaves into a people of God's presence. The crux of the story occurs in 40:34-38, in which the glory of God descended into the tabernacle, which from then on symbolizes the presence of God in the people of Israel.
- To the Israelites, it is the presence of God that marks them off as a people distinguished from the nations (33:15-16). The presence of God is their identity marker.
- At the time of Solomon, the role of the tabernacle was replaced by the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11; notice the striking similarity of phraseology between this passage and that of Exodus 40:34-38).
- Consequently, Israel knows that no matter what dangers and crises await her, she can always come to the temple, and face them in the presence of God (1 Kings 8:33-39).
- That is why, to the Israelites, the destruction of the temple is at the same time the end of their hope.
- Yet the prophets tell of a day when God will come back to dwell among His people (Ezekiel 37:26-27; Malachi 3:1), and rebuild His temple, so that the nations will be drawn to worship God there (Isaiah 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2; Zechariah 14:16-19).
- But the second temple did not fulfil this hope (Ezra 3:12; Haggai 2:3).
- As sinners, we all share the same alienation from God as experienced by Israel, and also the same hope of God's renewed presence.

(四) 新約聖靈臨在的福音

- 新約作者保羅，承繼了舊約的理解，認為上帝是藉著聖靈臨在於他的子民當中（以賽亞書 63:9-14; 哥林多前書 14:22-25）。
- 在保羅的書信中，聖靈的臨在成就了先知的盼望。新約的信徒與教會，也就成為了聖靈的殿：
 1. 哥林多前書 3:16-17
 2. 哥林多前書 6:19-20
 3. 哥林多後書 6:16
 4. 以弗所書 2:22

認信：聖靈的來臨，標誌著上帝重新臨在於我們當中，與我們同住。也正因如此，我們更加珍惜這聖潔上帝臨在的聖殿。

The Presence of God Through the Holy Spirit

- Paul inherited the Old Testament notion of God being present among His people through the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 63:9-14; 1 Cor 14:22-25).
- In Paul's letters, the presence of the Holy Spirit fulfils the hope of the prophets. Individuals believers and the Church now becomes the new temple of God:
 1. 1 Cor 3:16-17
 2. 1 Cor 6:19-20
 3. 2 Cor 6:16
 4. Eph 2:22

Confession: The coming of the Holy Spirit marks the renewed presence of God among His people. We pledge to live up to this vocation to be the dwelling place of the Holy God.